--- 1/2 Pound - "Series of 1883" - BLUE - 312 x 20 mm. ---

John McKay records that 62,500 copies, *recess printed* by hand press, and 146,300 *lithographed* copies of "1/2 Blue, Tobacco", were 'delivered', under the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886). The lithographed strips were probably the last of the "Series of 1880" blue Customs strips being delivered to Ottawa for destruction as obsolete.

NOTE: BABN, contrary to their contract, was at this time also supplying various *lithographed* "Series of 1883" strips to Ottawa. Possibly the *lithographed* strips listed here by John McKay ***were not*** from the "Series of 1880-81". At this late date, only time and the re-appearance of 1/2 pound *lithographed* blue strips, will decide the question.

John McKay also records that 244,570 *recess printed* by hand press copies of the "1/2 lb. Blue, Tobacco" were 'delivered' under the **4th BABN Contract** (1886-1892).

Next McKay records that 199,410 *recess printed* by hand press copies, and 1,520 *lithographed* copies of "1/2 Blue, Tobacco" were 'delivered' under the **5th BABN Contract** (1892-1897). The *lithographed* strips appear to be "Series of 1880" blue Customs remnants from the 3rd BABN Contract as it is unlikely that Burland-Desbarats would 'set-up' for only 1,520 strips.

Finally John McKay reports that 55,800 copies *recess printed* by hand press of "1/2 lb. Blue, Tobacco" were 'delivered' under the **5th BABN Supplement** (1897-1898). These sheets had been printed under the **5th BABN Contract** and remained in BABN stock when they lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement they were made available to the Department while ABN worked 'up-to-speed' with the die preparation and printing of the "Series of 1897".

3rd BABN Contract - October 22nd 1878	62,500 recess (hand press)	**000001** to **062500**
4th BABN Contract - October 22nd 1886	244,570 recess (hand press)	**062501** to **307070**
5th BABN Contract - April 23rd 1892	199,410 recess (hand press)	**307071** to **506480**
5th BABN Supplement - (1897-1898)	55,800 recess (hand press)	**506481** to **562280**
	562,280	

The catalogue lists the recess printed blue "Series of 1883" 1/2 pound strips as follows:

RP-625 - 1 pound, blue, perforated 12, on vertical mesh wove, 315 x 20 mm. - Montreal imprint - 4 mm. red controls
RP-625A - 1 pound, blue, perforated 12, on vertical mesh wove, 315 x 20 mm. - Montreal imprint - ***4 mm. violet controls***

RP-626 - 1 pound, blue, *coarse roulette*, on horizontal mesh wove, 312 x 20 mm. Ottawa imprint - 4 mm. red controls

RP-625n - 1/2 pound, blue, *without* control numbering, perforated 12,
Recess printed on vertical mesh wove - with the 26 mm. "Montreal" imprint

--- 26 mm. "Montreal" imprint - scanned at 300% scale ---

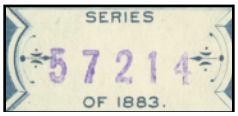
--- from the 3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) - *4 mm. violet controls* ---

--- RP-625A - perforated 12 - 26 mm. "Montreal" imprint - scanned at 50% scale ---

All of the stamps (bearing 4 mm. Gothic ***purple control numbers***) seem to come from the "Series of 1883". In a similar parallel, all of the stamps bearing the Lee Brandom 5 mm. Roman ***light blue controls*** seem to come from 1880-81.

I feel that the latter were prepared by BABN for an Exhibition in 1880-81, and the former were control numbered for a mid-1880 Exhibition. Only a few of these purple control numbered strips are found on *block watermarked* paper which indicates that they were from 1886 or later. It is possible that these strips were presentation copies destined for favoured philatelists.

There are a couple dozen examples in the collection most of which came from the "Ferrari" collection purchased from Erling van Dam. None of the stamps in the "Ferrari" collection dated from later then 1900.



RP-625A - 1/2 pound, blue, perf 12, with violet 4 mm. Gothic control **5 7 2 1 4**
recess printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove - with the 26 mm. "Montreal" imprint

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--- from the 4th BABN Contract (1886-1892) - with the 26 mm. "Montreal" imprint - 4 mm. red controls ---

--- RP-625 - 1/2 pound, blue, perf 12 - printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove - scanned at 50% scale ---

RP-625 - 1/2 pound, perf 12, printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove - 4 mm red control **112939**

112521	RP-625	1/2 pound, perf 12, printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove
112911-20★	RP-625	1/2 pound, perf 12, printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove, a full sheet of ten - perforated at top and bottom
112939★	RP-625	1/2 pound, perf 12, printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove
112954	RP-625	1/2 pound, perf 12, printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove
112940	RP-625	1/2 pound, perf 12, printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove
112958	RP-625	1/2 pound, perf 12, printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove
113151	RP-625	1/2 pound, perf 12, printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove
113918	RP-625	1/2 pound, perf 12, printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove

--- RP-625 - 1/2 pound, blue, perf 12 - printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove - scanned at 50% scale ---

136103★	RP-625	1/2 pound, perf 12, printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / Toronto / CUSTOMS**

--- from the 5th BABN Contract (1892-1897) - with the 26 mm. “Montreal” imprint - 4 mm. red controls ---

--- RP-626 - 1/2 pound, blue, *coarse roulette* - printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove - scanned at 50% scale ---

RP-626 - 1/2 pound, blue, *coarse roulette*, with 4 mm. control **462517**,
recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove - with the 26 mm. “Ottawa” imprint

462504	RP-626 CP	1/2 pound, coarse roulette, printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. violet Gothic
462517★	RP-626	1/2 pound, coarse roulette, printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove

The plates now read “BABN Co. Ottawa” and the end ornaments have been discontinued.

--- 26 mm. “Ottawa” imprint - scanned at 300% scale ---

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RP_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Blue \ 1-2 pound - 315 mm.],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
September 26th 2013 - JBH